

Appln No. 09/690,796
Amdt date February 2, 2009
Reply to Office action of October 31, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5-10, 17, 22, 42, 50-52, and 55-59 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 50 are amended.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his time for the telephonic interviews conducted on January 20, and January 28, 2009.

Claims 1, 6-10, 17, 22, 42, 50-52, and 55-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al. (US 6,233,565), in view of Rubin (U.S. 5,809,140). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al., and Rubin, in view of Bosen et al. (U.S. 5,060,263). Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 1 includes, among other limitations, "each of the plurality of stateless cryptographic devices remote from the plurality of users and configured to perform authentication, processing value for the VBI, and generation of indicia data for the plurality of users, wherein before each of the authentication, processing value, and generation of indicia data for a given user is performed, an available cryptographic device in the server system retrieves the data record for the given user directly from the database and uses the private key to verify the retrieved data record." None of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above limitations.

The Examiner, in the at least last four Office actions, despite of Applicant's arguments, insists that Lewis discloses the above limitations. However, The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (the "Board") decided a related case with some similar limitation in common with claims 1 and 50 of the present application, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Examiner. (Appeal 2008-1401, Decided July 25, 2008, Application 09/688,456).

In that decision, the Board agreed with the Appellant and reversed the Examiner's decision regarding interpretation of the same Lewis reference (US 6,233,565). More specifically the Board concluded that:

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1. Lewis does not disclose that each of the plurality of cryptographic devices is remote from the plurality of users (Col. 21:64-67).
2. Lewis does not specifically disclose that each cryptographic device includes a module for processing the value bearing item.
3. Lewis does not specifically disclose that each of the plurality of cryptographic devices is capable of authenticating any of the plurality of the remote users.
4. Lewis does not specifically disclose that each of the plurality of cryptographic devices is capable of processing a VBI printing request from any of the plurality of the remote users. [and]
5. Lewis does not specifically disclose that each of the plurality of cryptographic devices is capable of generating indicia data for transmitting to any of the plurality of the remote users.

(Id., pages 3-6)

Accordingly, it is clear that according to the Board, Lewis does not teach or even suggest the above limitations in claim 1.

As a result, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Amended independent claim 50 includes, among other limitations, "interfacing with a plurality of users remote from the plurality of stateless cryptographic devices, via the client system," and "authenticating the given user, processing value for the VBI and generating indicia data for the given user, by any available cryptographic device of the plurality of stateless cryptographic devices" Likewise, based on the Board's decision, Lewis does not teach the above limitations.

In short, independent claims 1, and 50 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 5-10, 17, 22, 42, 51, 52, and 55-59 are dependent from claims 1 and 50, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also

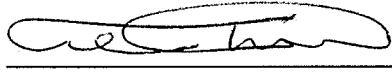
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allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claims and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

To facilitate the advancement of this case, the undersigned Applicant's attorney encourages the Examiner to contact him at the below indicated phone number, if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
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